

Application No.: 09/827,362Docket No.: 30014165-2 US (1509-164)**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:**Claims 1-58 (Canceled).**

59. (New) A method of operating a plurality of logically grouped headless computer entities configured to supply functionality to a client computer entity, wherein the client computer entity includes at least one user account on one of said grouped headless computer entities, each said user account providing an amount of computing functionality to an authorised user operating the client computer entity, the method comprising:

identifying at least one said grouped headless computer entity capable of providing functionality to said client computer entity;

performing at least one test to check that said identified grouped headless computer entity is suitable for providing said functionality to said client computer entity, and

in response to the at least one test indicating that said grouped headless computer entity is suitable for providing said functionality, opening a new said user account on said suitable grouped headless computer entity for providing the functionality to the client computer entity.

60. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the identifying of at least one said grouped headless computer entity includes comparing the new user account with user accounts already on said grouped headless computer entities, and the at least one test is only performed if the new account is found not to be on any of said grouped headless computer entities.

61. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein one of said grouped headless computer entities is a master computer entity and the identifying of at least said grouped headless computer entity and the performing of at least one test is performed by the master computer entity.

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62. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the client computer has a sub-network address and the grouped headless computer entities have sub-network addresses, and the identifying of at least one said grouped headless computer entity includes comparing a said sub-network address of at least one said grouped headless computer entity with the sub-network address of the client computer, wherein a said grouped headless computer with the same sub-network address as the client computer entity is identified as a said grouped headless computer that is suitable for providing the functionality to the client computer entity.

63. (New) A method according to claim 62, wherein if a said grouped headless computer entity having a said sub-network address that is the same as the sub-network address of the client computer is not identified, then any said grouped headless computer entity is identified as one that is suitable for providing the functionality to the client computer entity, regardless of the sub-network address of the grouped headless computer entity.

64. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the identifying of at least one said grouped headless computer entity includes identifying the grouped headless computer entity that has a maximum available data storage space compared with other said grouped headless computer entities.

65. (New) A method according to claim 59, further including installing an agent onto the grouped headless computer entity upon which the new user account is to be opened, the agent handling the new user account for the client computer entity.

66. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the identifying of at least one said grouped headless computer entity includes randomly selecting one of said grouped headless computer entities.

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67. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the grouped headless computer entities are deployed with a respective plurality of applications programs, all said application programs being of the same type, said method further comprising:

generating a master set of application program configuration settings;

converting said master set of application program configuration settings to a form which is transportable over a local area network connection connecting said grouped headless computer entities;

receiving said master set of application program configuration settings at a said grouped headless computer entity, and

applying said master set of application program configuration settings to a said applications program resident on the grouped headless computer entity.

68. (New) A method according to claim 67, wherein a said master application configuration setting comprises a setting selected from a set:

- an international time setting;
- a default data storage capacity setting;
- an exclude setting;
- a user rights settings;
- a data file definition setting;
- a schedule setting;
- a quota setting; and
- a log critical file setting.

69. (New) A method according to claim 59, further comprising:

monitoring a utilization of each of said grouped headless computer entities to locate a said grouped headless computer entity having a capacity that is utilized at above a first pre-determined limit;

searching for a said grouped headless computer entity that has a capacity utilization below a second pre-determined limit;

selecting at least one said user account located on said grouped headless computer entity having capacity utilization above said first pre-determined limit; and

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transferring said at least one selected user account from said grouped headless computer entity having capacity utilization above said first pre-determined limit to the grouped headless computer entity having the capacity utilization below said second pre-determined limit.

70. (New) A method according to claim 69, wherein said second pre-determined limit comprises a new user capacity limit that corresponds to a number of users that can be accommodated on said grouped headless computer entities.

71. (New) A method according to claim 69, wherein said monitoring to locate a said grouped headless computer entity having capacity utilization above the first pre-determined limit comprises:

monitoring a data storage capacity of each said grouped headless computer entities, and
for each said grouped headless computer entity, comparing said capacity utilization with a capacity quota limit corresponding to a limit indicating that utilization of said grouped headless computer entity is approaching a maximum capacity utilization.

72. (New) A method according to claim 69, wherein the selecting of at least one user account comprises randomly selecting a said user account.

73. (New) A method according to claim 69, wherein the selecting of at least one user account comprises selecting a said user account having a largest data size on the grouped headless computer entity on which said user account is resident.

74. (New) A plurality of logically grouped headless computer entities configured to supply functionality to a client computer entity, wherein said client computer entity is provided with at least one user account on one of said grouped headless computer entities, each said user account providing an amount of computing functionality to an authorised user operating the client computer entity, wherein at least one of said grouped headless computer entities includes:

an identifier for identifying at least one other said grouped headless computer entity capable of providing functionality to said client computer entity;

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a tester for performing at least one test to check that said at least one identified grouped headless computer entity is suitable for providing said functionality to said client computer entity; and

an account opener that, in response to the at least one test indicating that said grouped headless computer entity is suitable for providing said functionality, opens a new said user account on said suitable grouped headless computer entity for providing the functionality to the client computer entity.

75. (New) A plurality of grouped headless computer entities according to claim 74, further comprising an aggregation service application, said aggregation service application configured to receive application settings from at least one application program and distribute said application configuration settings across all said grouped headless computer entities to configure at least one application program resident on said grouped headless computer entities.

76. (New) A plurality of grouped headless computer entities according to claim 75, wherein said application settings are communicated via a set of API calls.

77. (New) A plurality of logically grouped headless computer entities according to claim 75, further including an agent component for allocating the new user account to the suitable grouped headless computer entity.

78. (New) A client computer entity configured to access and utilize a said user account on one of the plurality of grouped headless computer entities of claim 74.

79. (New) A computer system comprising:
a first plurality of client computer entities; and
a second plurality of computer entities connected logically into a group in which:
a said computer entity in the group is designated as a master computer entity;
at least one of said computer entities in the group is designated as a slave computer entity; and
said slave computer entity comprises an agent component for allocating functionality

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provided by said slave computer entity to one or more users operating said client computer entities served by said group of computer entities, wherein said agent component is arranged to operate to automatically allocate said slave computer functionality by:

creating a plurality of user accounts, each said user account providing an amount of computing functionality to an authorised user;

selecting a said slave computer entity and allocating said user account to said slave computer entity; and

allocating to each said user account an amount of computing functionality provided by a said slave computer entity.